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involving
SUBJECT: Arson of Soviet Diplomatic VehiclesFollowing from press briefing by Dept. spokesman Charles
Bray: (February 19)

QUOTE The United States Government condemns the senseless acts of vandalism perpetrated early this morning against the automobiles of three Soviet Embassy personnel. These criminal acts are deplored by all responsible Americans and we are making every effort to arrest and prosecute the individuals responsible for this outrage. I would like to emphasize that responsible Americans know that lawless violence does not advance the cause of those who suffer from repression and discrimination abroad.

The Executive Protective Service has taken further steps to tighten security precautions for Soviet installations and personnel and local law enforcement agencies are cooperating in this effort.

Mr. Adolph Dubs, Country Director for Soviet Union Affairs, called Mr. Yuliy Vorontsov, Minister Counsellor

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2/19/71

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APPROVED BY:

EUR - Mr. Olsen

CLEARANCES:

SOV - Mr. Killiam

Mr. Dubs

S/PRS - Mr. Bray (subs)

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of the Soviet Embassy, to express our regrets and shock over this incident and to assure him that this government is doing all it can to put an end to these ~~criminal~~ criminal acts. End of statement.

I might just note parenthetically that we understand that Meir Kahane is being brought to trial this afternoon in New York. They have selected a jury.

Q. Can you say what further steps have been taken to tighten security?

A. I don't have the ~~many~~ details. I know that the Executive Protection Service has stepped up its patrols and that the Montgomery County Police has done likewise.

Q. Can you say what time Mr. Dubs called?

A. 9:45 this morning

Q. Have there been any patrols, and around how many of the homes of Embassy personnel?

A. No, I can't answer that in detail. But I do know that the Executive Protective Service has been doing a good deal of patrolling.

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Q. Around the official installations?

A. And ~~xx~~ around the residences as well. And I believe, but I am not sure on this--you might check Montgomery County--that their police have been doing likewise.

Q. Have the Russians entered a formal diplomatic protest on this ~~x~~ issue?

A. No, they have not.

Q. Who is responsible for the investigation?

A. The local ~~xx~~ police.

Mr. Bray

Q./In the third paragraph you said, when you emphasized that responsible Americans know that violence will not advance the cause of those who suffer from repression and discrimination abroad, is it the Government's position that Soviet Jewry is suffering repression and discrimination in the Soviet Union?

A. I think I had better duck that on the grounds of ignorance of our position, public position.

Q. ~~xxx~~ Before we go on, just one more point of clari-

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fication on that. In the same paragraph--is it the opinion of the Department that these acts were perpetrated by the Defense League?

A. We don't know.

Q. Do we know ~~xxx~~ that the other two cars were cars of Soviet diplomats?

A. We know that all three cars belong to Soviet diplomats. We don't have the identities of the owners, as of now.

Q. Was there any reason why you brought in the question of Meir Kahane after reading this statement?

A. Yes. I think we are anxious to point to constructive actions by the authorities concerned in this whole area.

UNQUOTE

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